

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to teacher preparation and
3 accountability; amending s. 1004.04, F.S.; revising
4 provisions relating to state-approved teacher
5 preparation programs and accountability therefor;
6 revising the uniform core curricula for each program
7 and providing for candidate assessment; revising
8 standards and criteria for initial and continued
9 program approval; requiring each program to prepare an
10 institutional program evaluation plan; providing
11 requirements for annual reports to the state and the
12 general public; revising requirements for personnel
13 who supervise teacher preparation students during
14 preservice field experience; deleting provisions
15 relating to certain standards of excellence, national
16 standards, articulation agreements, and a program to
17 provide experience as a teacher assistant; amending s.
18 1004.85, F.S.; authorizing a private provider to
19 create an educator preparation institute if approved
20 by the Department of Education; providing criteria for
21 initial and continued approval of an institute's
22 competency-based certification program; providing
23 requirements and credentials for program participants;
24 providing requirements for supervisors of field
25 experiences; amending s. 1012.32, F.S.; conforming
26 provisions; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; authorizing
27 rules to allow for acceptance of certain college
28 course credits for educator certification; providing

29 | components for a school district competency-based
 30 | professional development certification program;
 31 | providing requirements for initial and continued
 32 | approval of programs; revising provisions for
 33 | applicant review of an educator certification
 34 | examination; amending s. 1012.585, F.S.; correcting a
 35 | cross-reference; amending s. 1012.98, F.S.; revising
 36 | requirements for professional development systems
 37 | developed by school districts; providing an effective
 38 | date.

39 |
 40 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

41 |
 42 | Section 1. Section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended
 43 | to read:

44 | 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for
 45 | teacher preparation programs.—

46 | (1) INTENT.—

47 | (a) The Legislature recognizes that effective ~~skilled~~
 48 | teachers make an important contribution to a system that allows
 49 | students to obtain a high-quality education.

50 | (b) The intent of the Legislature is to require the State
 51 | Board of Education to maintain ~~attain~~ a system for development
 52 | and approval of teacher preparation programs that allows
 53 | postsecondary teacher preparation institutions to employ varied
 54 | and innovative teacher preparation techniques while being held
 55 | accountable for producing program completers ~~graduates~~ with the
 56 | competencies and skills necessary to achieve the state education

57 | goals; help all students in the state's diverse student
 58 | population, ~~including students who have substandard reading and~~
 59 | ~~computational skills and students with limited English~~
 60 | ~~proficiency,~~ meet high standards for academic achievement;
 61 | maintain safe, secure classroom learning environments; and
 62 | sustain the state system of school improvement and education
 63 | accountability established pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and
 64 | 1008.345.

65 | (2) UNIFORM CORE CURRICULA AND CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT.—

66 | (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 67 | pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 that establish uniform
 68 | core curricula for each state-approved teacher preparation
 69 | program.

70 | (b) The rules to establish uniform core curricula for each
 71 | state-approved teacher preparation program must include, but are
 72 | not limited to, the following:

- 73 | 1. The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices.
- 74 | 2. The state-adopted student content standards.
- 75 | 3. Scientifically researched reading instruction.
- 76 | 4. Content literacy and mathematical practices.
- 77 | 5. Strategies appropriate for instruction of English
 78 | language learners.
- 79 | 6. Strategies appropriate for instruction of students with
 80 | disabilities. ~~a State Board of Education identified foundation~~
 81 | ~~in scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading literacy~~
 82 | ~~and computational skills acquisition; classroom management;~~
 83 | ~~school safety; professional ethics; educational law; human~~
 84 | ~~development and learning; and understanding of the Sunshine~~

85 ~~State Standards content measured by state achievement tests,~~
86 ~~reading and interpretation of data, and use of data to improve~~
87 ~~student achievement.~~

88 (c) Each candidate shall receive instruction and be
89 assessed on the uniform core curriculum in his or her area of
90 program concentration during course work and field experiences.

91 (d) Before program completion, each candidate must
92 demonstrate his or her ability to positively impact student
93 learning growth in his or her area of program concentration
94 during a prekindergarten through grade 12 field experience and
95 must pass each portion of the Florida Teacher Certification
96 Examination required for a professional certificate in the area
97 of program concentration.

98 ~~(e) These rules shall not require an additional period of~~
99 ~~time to degree but may be phased in to enable teacher~~
100 ~~preparation programs to supplant courses, including pedagogy~~
101 ~~courses, not required by law or State Board of Education rule~~
102 ~~with the courses identified pursuant to paragraph (b).~~

103 ~~(3) DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS. A system~~
104 ~~developed by the Department of Education in collaboration with~~
105 ~~postsecondary educational institutions shall assist departments~~
106 ~~and colleges of education in the restructuring of their programs~~
107 ~~in accordance with this section to meet the need for producing~~
108 ~~quality teachers now and in the future.~~

109 ~~(a) The system must be designed to assist teacher~~
110 ~~educators in conceptualizing, developing, implementing, and~~
111 ~~evaluating programs that meet state-adopted standards. These~~
112 ~~standards shall emphasize quality indicators drawn from~~

113 ~~research, professional literature, recognized guidelines,~~
114 ~~Florida essential teaching competencies and educator-~~
115 ~~accomplished practices, effective classroom practices, and the~~
116 ~~outcomes of the state system of school improvement and education~~
117 ~~accountability, as well as performance measures.~~

118 ~~(b) Departments and colleges of education shall emphasize~~
119 ~~the state system of school improvement and education~~
120 ~~accountability concepts and standards, including Sunshine State~~
121 ~~Standards.~~

122 ~~(c) State approved teacher preparation programs must~~
123 ~~incorporate:~~

124 ~~1. Appropriate English for Speakers of Other Languages~~
125 ~~instruction so that program graduates will have completed the~~
126 ~~requirements for teaching limited English proficient students in~~
127 ~~Florida public schools.~~

128 ~~2. Scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading~~
129 ~~literacy and computational skills instruction so that program~~
130 ~~graduates will be able to provide the necessary academic~~
131 ~~foundations for their students at whatever grade levels they~~
132 ~~choose to teach.~~

133 ~~(3)(4) INITIAL STATE PROGRAM APPROVAL.-~~

134 (a) A program approval process based on standards adopted
135 pursuant to this subsection and subsection ~~subsections (2) and~~
136 ~~(3)~~ must be established for postsecondary teacher preparation
137 programs, ~~phased in according to timelines determined by the~~
138 ~~Department of Education, and fully implemented for all teacher~~
139 ~~preparation programs in the state.~~ Each program shall be
140 approved by the department, consistent with the intent set forth

141 in subsection (1) and based ~~primarily~~ upon evidence of the
142 institution's and the program's capacity to meet the
143 requirements for continued approval established in subsection
144 (4) and rules of the State Board of Education ~~significant,~~
145 ~~objective, and quantifiable graduate performance measures.~~

146 (b) Each teacher preparation program approved by the
147 Department of Education, as provided for by this section, shall
148 require students to meet, at a minimum, the following ~~as~~
149 prerequisites for admission into the program:

150 1. Have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0
151 scale for the general education component of undergraduate
152 studies or have completed the requirements for a baccalaureate
153 degree with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
154 from any college or university accredited by a regional
155 accrediting association as defined by State Board of Education
156 rule or any college or university otherwise approved pursuant to
157 State Board of Education rule.

158 2. Demonstrate mastery of general knowledge sufficient for
159 entry into the program, including the ability to read, write,
160 and perform mathematics ~~compute,~~ by passing the General
161 Knowledge Test of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination
162 or, for graduate-level programs, by obtaining a baccalaureate
163 degree from an institution that is accredited or approved, ~~the~~
164 ~~College Level Academic Skills Test, a corresponding component of~~
165 ~~the National Teachers Examination series, or a similar test~~
166 pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education.

167
168 Each teacher preparation program may waive these admissions

169 requirements for up to 10 percent of the students admitted.
170 Programs shall implement strategies to ensure that students
171 admitted under a waiver receive assistance to demonstrate
172 competencies to successfully meet requirements for certification
173 and shall annually report to the department the status of each
174 candidate admitted under such a waiver.

175 (c) Each teacher preparation program approved by the
176 Department of Education, as provided for by this section, shall
177 provide a certification ombudsman to facilitate the process and
178 procedures required for graduates to obtain educator
179 professional or temporary certification pursuant to s. 1012.56.

180 (4)-(5) CONTINUED PROGRAM APPROVAL.—Continued approval of a
181 teacher preparation program shall be based upon evidence that
182 the program continues to implement the requirements for initial
183 approval and upon significant, objective, and quantifiable
184 measures of program and program completer performance.

185 (a) The criteria for continued approval shall include the
186 following:

187 1. Documentation from the program that each program
188 candidate met the admission requirements provided in subsection
189 (3).

190 2. Documentation from the program that the program and
191 each program completer met the requirements provided in
192 subsection (2).

193 3. Evidence of performance in each of the following
194 categories of data:

195 a. Placement rate of program completers into instructional
196 positions in Florida public schools and private schools, if

197 available.

198 b. Rate of retention for employed program completers in
199 instructional positions in Florida public schools.

200 c. Performance of the prekindergarten through grade 12
201 students assigned to in-field program completers on statewide
202 assessments using the results of the student learning growth
203 formula adopted under s. 1012.34.

204 d. Performance of prekindergarten through grade 12
205 students assigned to in-field program completers aggregated by
206 federal reporting subgroup as a measure of how well the program
207 prepares teachers to work with a diverse population of students
208 in a variety of settings in Florida public schools.

209 e. Results of program completers' annual evaluations in
210 accordance with the timeline as set forth in s. 1012.34.

211 f. Production of program completers in statewide critical
212 teacher shortage areas as identified under s. 1012.07.

213 ~~Notwithstanding subsection (4), failure by a public or nonpublic~~
214 ~~teacher preparation program to meet the criteria for continued~~
215 ~~program approval shall result in loss of program approval. The~~
216 ~~Department of Education, in collaboration with the departments~~
217 ~~and colleges of education, shall develop procedures for~~
218 ~~continued program approval that document the continuous~~
219 ~~improvement of program processes and graduates' performance.~~

220 ~~(a) Continued approval of specific teacher preparation~~
221 ~~programs at each public and nonpublic postsecondary educational~~
222 ~~institution within the state is contingent upon the passing of~~
223 ~~the written examination required by s. 1012.56 by at least 90~~
224 ~~percent of the graduates of the program who take the~~

225 ~~examination. The Department of Education shall annually provide~~
226 ~~an analysis of the performance of the graduates of such~~
227 ~~institution with respect to the competencies assessed by the~~
228 ~~examination required by s. 1012.56.~~

229 (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for
230 continued approval of teacher preparation programs that include
231 the program review process, the continued approval timelines,
232 and the performance level targets for each of the continued
233 approval criteria in paragraph (a). Additional criteria for
234 continued program approval ~~for public institutions~~ may be
235 approved by the State Board of Education. Such criteria may
236 include ~~must emphasize instruction in classroom management and~~
237 ~~must provide for the evaluation of the teacher candidates'~~
238 ~~performance in this area. The criteria shall also require~~
239 ~~instruction in working with underachieving students. Program~~
240 ~~evaluation procedures must include, but are not limited to,~~
241 program completers' ~~graduates'~~ satisfaction with instruction and
242 employers' satisfaction with the program's responsiveness to
243 local school districts. The Commissioner of Education shall make
244 the determination for the continued approval of each program
245 based on the data collected pursuant to this section and rules
246 of the State Board of Education. ~~Additional criteria for~~
247 ~~continued program approval for nonpublic institutions shall be~~
248 ~~developed in the same manner as for public institutions;~~
249 ~~however, such criteria must be based upon significant,~~
250 ~~objective, and quantifiable graduate performance measures.~~
251 ~~Responsibility for collecting data on outcome measures through~~
252 ~~survey instruments and other appropriate means shall be shared~~

253 ~~by the postsecondary educational institutions and the Department~~
254 ~~of Education. By January 1 of each year, the Department of~~
255 ~~Education shall report this information for each postsecondary~~
256 ~~educational institution that has state-approved programs of~~
257 ~~teacher education to the Governor, the State Board of Education,~~
258 ~~the Board of Governors, the Commissioner of Education, the~~
259 ~~President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of~~
260 ~~Representatives, all Florida postsecondary teacher preparation~~
261 ~~programs, and interested members of the public. This report must~~
262 ~~analyze the data and make recommendations for improving teacher~~
263 ~~preparation programs in the state.~~

264 (c) Each program must prepare and submit to the department
265 ~~Continued approval for a teacher preparation program is~~
266 ~~contingent upon the results of periodic reviews, on a schedule~~
267 ~~established by the State Board of Education, of the program~~
268 ~~conducted by the postsecondary educational institution, using~~
269 ~~procedures and criteria outlined in an institutional program~~
270 ~~evaluation plan approved by the Department of Education. Each~~
271 institutional program evaluation ~~This plan must incorporate data~~
272 related to the criteria established in paragraphs (a) and (b)
273 and may include additional data chosen by the program. The plan
274 must provide information on how the institution addresses
275 continuous program improvement and include provisions for
276 involving primary stakeholders, such as program completers
277 graduates, public district school personnel, classroom teachers,
278 principals, community agencies, and business representatives in
279 the evaluation process. ~~Upon request by an institution, the~~
280 ~~department shall provide assistance in developing, enhancing, or~~

281 ~~reviewing the institutional program evaluation plan and training~~
282 ~~evaluation team members.~~

283 ~~(d) Continued approval for a teacher preparation program~~
284 ~~is contingent upon standards being in place that are designed to~~
285 ~~adequately prepare elementary, middle, and high school teachers~~
286 ~~to instruct their students in reading and higher-level~~
287 ~~mathematics concepts and in the use of technology at the~~
288 ~~appropriate grade level.~~

289 (d) (e) ~~Continued approval of teacher preparation programs~~
290 ~~is contingent upon compliance with the student admission~~
291 ~~requirements of subsection (4) and upon the receipt of at least~~
292 ~~a satisfactory rating from public schools and private schools~~
293 ~~that employ graduates of the program. Each teacher preparation~~
294 ~~program shall guarantee the high quality of its program~~
295 ~~completers graduates during the first 2 years immediately after~~
296 ~~completion of following graduation from the program or after~~
297 ~~following initial certification, whichever occurs first. Any~~
298 ~~program completer who is employed in a public school during this~~
299 ~~2-year period and who earns an evaluation result of developing~~
300 ~~or unsatisfactory on the district's evaluation system~~
301 ~~implemented under s. 1012.34 ~~educator in a Florida school who~~~~
302 ~~~~fails to demonstrate the essential skills specified in~~~~
303 ~~~~subparagraphs 1.-5.~~ shall be provided additional training by the~~
304 ~~teacher preparation program at no expense to the educator or the~~
305 ~~employer, if requested by the employing school district or~~
306 ~~charter school. Such training must consist of an individualized~~
307 ~~plan agreed upon by the school district and the postsecondary~~
308 ~~educational institution that includes specific learning~~

309 outcomes. The postsecondary educational institution assumes no
310 responsibility for the educator's employment contract with the
311 employer. ~~Employer satisfaction shall be determined by an~~
312 ~~annually administered survey instrument approved by the~~
313 ~~Department of Education that, at a minimum, must include~~
314 ~~employer satisfaction of the graduates' ability to do the~~
315 ~~following:~~

316 ~~1. Write and speak in a logical and understandable style~~
317 ~~with appropriate grammar.~~

318 ~~2. Recognize signs of students' difficulty with the~~
319 ~~reading and computational process and apply appropriate measures~~
320 ~~to improve students' reading and computational performance.~~

321 ~~3. Use and integrate appropriate technology in teaching~~
322 ~~and learning processes.~~

323 ~~4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Sunshine~~
324 ~~State Standards.~~

325 ~~5. Maintain an orderly and disciplined classroom conducive~~
326 ~~to student learning.~~

327 (e)1. Each Florida public and private institution that
328 offers a state-approved teacher preparation program must
329 annually report information regarding its approved these
330 programs to the state and the general public. The report to the
331 state must include candidates who are admitted to, enrolled in,
332 and complete a teacher preparation program; additional evidence
333 necessary to document requirements for continued approval; and
334 data necessary to complete applicable federal reporting
335 requirements. State reporting requirements must minimize a
336 program's reporting burden whenever possible without

337 compromising data quality. The report to the general public must
338 include, at a minimum, the annual progress data reported under
339 paragraph (f) and may include other information chosen by the
340 institution or program. This information shall be reported in a
341 uniform and comprehensible manner that is consistent with
342 definitions and methods approved by the Commissioner of the
343 National Center for Educational Statistics and that is approved
344 by the State Board of Education. This information must include,
345 at a minimum:

346 a. ~~The percent of graduates obtaining full-time teaching~~
347 ~~employment within the first year of graduation.~~

348 b. ~~The average length of stay of graduates in their full-~~
349 ~~time teaching positions.~~

350 e. ~~Satisfaction ratings required in paragraph (c).~~

351 2. ~~Each public and private institution offering training~~
352 ~~for school readiness related professions, including training in~~
353 ~~the fields of child care and early childhood education, whether~~
354 ~~offering career credit, associate in applied science degree~~
355 ~~programs, associate in science degree programs, or associate in~~
356 ~~arts degree programs, shall annually report information~~
357 ~~regarding these programs to the state and the general public in~~
358 ~~a uniform and comprehensible manner that conforms with~~
359 ~~definitions and methods approved by the State Board of~~
360 ~~Education. This information must include, at a minimum:~~

361 a. ~~Average length of stay of graduates in their positions.~~

362 b. ~~Satisfaction ratings of graduates' employers.~~

363

364 ~~This information shall be reported through publications,~~

365 ~~including college and university catalogs and promotional~~
366 ~~materials sent to potential applicants, secondary school~~
367 ~~guidance counselors, and prospective employers of the~~
368 ~~institution's program graduates.~~

369 (f) By January 1 of each year, the Department of Education
370 shall report to the Governor, the State Board of Education, the
371 Board of Governors, the Commissioner of Education, the President
372 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, all
373 Florida postsecondary teacher preparation programs, district
374 school superintendents, and the public the results of each
375 approved program's annual progress on the performance measures
376 in paragraph (a) and the current approval status of each
377 program. This report may include results of other continued
378 approval requirements provided in State Board of Education rules
379 and recommendations for improving teacher preparation programs
380 in the state.

381 (5) (6) PRESERVICE FIELD EXPERIENCE.—All postsecondary
382 instructors, school district personnel and instructional
383 personnel, and school sites preparing instructional personnel
384 through preservice field experience courses and internships
385 shall meet special requirements. District school boards are
386 authorized to pay student teachers during their internships.

387 (a) All individuals ~~instructors~~ in postsecondary teacher
388 preparation programs who instruct or supervise preservice field
389 experience courses or internships in which a candidate
390 demonstrates his or her impact on student learning growth shall
391 have ~~at least one of the following:~~ specialized training in
392 clinical supervision; at least 3 years of successful, relevant

393 prekindergarten through grade 12 teaching, student services, or
394 school administration experience; and an annual demonstration of
395 experience in a relevant prekindergarten through grade 12 school
396 setting as defined by State Board of Education rule ~~a valid~~
397 professional teaching certificate pursuant to ss. 1012.56 and
398 1012.585; or at least 3 years of successful teaching experience
399 in prekindergarten through grade 12.

400 (b) All school district personnel and instructional
401 personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students
402 during field experience courses or internships in which a
403 candidate demonstrates his or her impact on student learning
404 growth must:

405 1. Have evidence of "clinical educator" training approved
406 by the State Board of Education.

407 2. Hold a valid professional certificate issued pursuant
408 to s. 1012.56.

409 3. Have at least 3 years of prekindergarten through grade
410 12 teaching experience.

411 4. Have earned either an effective or highly effective
412 rating on the previous year's evaluation under s. 1012.34 or be
413 a peer evaluator under the district's evaluation system approved
414 under s. 1012.34 and must successfully demonstrate effective
415 classroom management strategies that consistently result in
416 improved student performance. The State Board of Education shall
417 approve the training requirements.

418 (c) Preservice field experiences must include candidate
419 practice ~~experience programs must provide specific guidance and~~
420 ~~demonstration of~~ the uniform core curriculum specific to the

421 area of program concentration with a diverse population of
422 students in a variety of settings ~~effective classroom management~~
423 ~~strategies, strategies for incorporating technology into~~
424 ~~classroom instruction, strategies for incorporating~~
425 ~~scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading literacy and~~
426 ~~computational skills acquisition into classroom instruction, and~~
427 ~~ways to link instructional plans to the Sunshine State~~
428 ~~Standards, as appropriate.~~ The length of structured field
429 experiences may be extended to ensure that candidates achieve
430 the competencies needed to meet certification requirements.

431 (d) Postsecondary teacher preparation programs in
432 cooperation with district school boards and approved private
433 school associations shall select the school sites for preservice
434 field experience activities based upon the qualifications of
435 supervising faculty as described in this subsection and the
436 needs of the candidates. These sites must represent the full
437 spectrum of school communities, including, but not limited to,
438 schools located in urban settings. In order to be selected,
439 school sites must demonstrate commitment to the education of
440 public school students and to the preparation of future
441 teachers.

442 ~~(7) STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE. The State Board of Education~~
443 ~~shall approve standards of excellence for teacher preparation.~~
444 ~~These standards must exceed the requirements for program~~
445 ~~approval pursuant to subsection (4) and must incorporate state~~
446 ~~and national recommendations for exemplary teacher preparation~~
447 ~~programs.~~

448 ~~(8) NATIONAL BOARD STANDARDS. The State Board of Education~~

449 ~~shall review standards and recommendations developed by the~~
450 ~~National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and may~~
451 ~~incorporate those parts deemed appropriate into criteria for~~
452 ~~continued state program approval, standards of excellence, and~~
453 ~~requirements for inservice education.~~

454 ~~(9) FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.—To the extent~~
455 ~~practical, postsecondary educational institutions offering~~
456 ~~teacher preparation programs shall establish articulation~~
457 ~~agreements on a core of liberal arts courses and introductory~~
458 ~~professional courses with field experience components which~~
459 ~~shall be offered at Florida College System institutions.~~

460 ~~(10) SHORT-TERM EXPERIENCES AS TEACHER ASSISTANTS.—~~
461 ~~Postsecondary institutions offering teacher preparation programs~~
462 ~~and Florida College System institutions, in collaboration with~~
463 ~~school districts, may develop and implement a program to provide~~
464 ~~short-term experiences as teacher assistants prior to beginning~~
465 ~~a teacher preparation program or alternative certification~~
466 ~~program. The program shall serve individuals with baccalaureate~~
467 ~~degrees who are interested in the teaching profession. This~~
468 ~~experience may be accepted for use in teacher preparation~~
469 ~~programs and competency-based alternative certification~~
470 ~~programs, where applicable.~~

471 ~~(6)(11)~~ RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt
472 necessary rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to
473 implement this section.

474 Section 2. Section 1004.85, Florida Statutes, is amended
475 to read:

476 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

477 (1) As used in this section, "educator preparation
478 institute" means an institute created by a postsecondary
479 institution or qualified private provider and approved by the
480 Department of Education.

481 (2) (a) Postsecondary institutions that are accredited or
482 approved as described in state board rule may seek approval from
483 the Department of Education to create educator preparation
484 institutes for the purpose of providing any or all of the
485 following:

486 1.(a) Professional development instruction to assist
487 teachers in improving classroom instruction and in meeting
488 certification or recertification requirements.

489 2.(b) Instruction to assist potential and existing
490 substitute teachers in performing their duties.

491 3.(e) Instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting
492 education and training requirements.

493 4.(d) Instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to
494 become certified teachers as provided in this section in order
495 to increase routes to the classroom for mid-career professionals
496 who hold a baccalaureate degree and college graduates who were
497 not education majors.

498 (b) Private providers that have a proven history of
499 delivering high-quality teacher preparation, which is based upon
500 evidence provided from recipients of their services and data
501 showing the successful performance of their completers based
502 upon student achievement, may seek approval to offer a
503 competency-based certification program under subsection (3).

504 (3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to

505 | this section may offer competency-based ~~alternative~~
506 | certification programs specifically designed for noneducation
507 | major baccalaureate degree holders to enable program
508 | participants to meet the educator certification requirements of
509 | s. 1012.56. ~~Such programs shall be competency-based educator~~
510 | ~~certification preparation programs that prepare educators~~
511 | ~~through an alternative route.~~ An educator preparation institute
512 | choosing to offer a competency-based ~~an alternative~~
513 | certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section
514 | must implement a program previously approved by the Department
515 | of Education for this purpose or a program developed by the
516 | institute and approved by the department for this purpose.
517 | Approved programs shall be available for use by other approved
518 | educator preparation institutes.

519 | (a) Within 90 days after receipt of a request for
520 | approval, the Department of Education shall approve an educator
521 | preparation ~~an alternative certification~~ program pursuant to the
522 | requirements of this subsection or issue a statement of the
523 | deficiencies in the request for approval. The department shall
524 | approve a ~~an alternative~~ certification program if the institute
525 | provides ~~sufficient~~ evidence of the institute's capacity to
526 | implement a competency-based program that includes the
527 | following:

528 | 1. Participant instruction and assessment in the Florida
529 | Educator Accomplished Practices, the state-adopted student
530 | content standards, scientifically researched reading
531 | instruction, content literacy and mathematical practices,
532 | strategies appropriate for instruction of English language

533 learners, and strategies appropriate for instruction of students
534 with disabilities.

535 2. An educational plan for each participant to meet
536 certification requirements and demonstrate his or her ability to
537 teach the subject area for which the participant is seeking
538 certification, which plan is based on an assessment of his or
539 her competency in the areas listed in subparagraph 1.

540 ~~1. Instruction must be provided in professional knowledge~~
541 ~~and subject matter content that includes educator-accomplished~~
542 ~~practices and competencies specified in State Board of Education~~
543 ~~rule and meets subject matter content requirements, professional~~
544 ~~competency testing requirements, and competencies associated~~
545 ~~with teaching scientifically based reading instruction and~~
546 ~~strategies that research has shown to be successful in improving~~
547 ~~reading among low-performing readers.~~

548 3.2. Field experiences appropriate to the certification
549 subject specified in the educational plan with a diverse
550 population of students in a variety of settings under ~~The~~
551 ~~program must provide field experience with supervision from~~
552 ~~qualified educators.~~

553 ~~4.3. The program must provide~~ A certification ombudsman to
554 facilitate the process and procedures required for participants
555 who complete the program to meet any requirements related to the
556 background screening pursuant to s. 1012.32 and educator
557 professional or temporary certification pursuant to s. 1012.56.

558 (b) Each program participant must:

559 1. Meet certification requirements pursuant to s.
560 1012.56(1) by obtaining a statement of status of eligibility in

561 | the certification area of the educational plan and meet the
562 | requirements of s. 1012.56(2) (a)-(f).

563 | 2. Participate in course work field experiences that are
564 | ~~experience that is~~ appropriate to his or her educational plan
565 | prepared under paragraph (a).

566 | 3. Before completion of the program, fully demonstrate his
567 | or her ability to teach the subject area for which he or she is
568 | seeking certification by documenting a positive impact on
569 | student learning growth in a prekindergarten through grade 12
570 | setting and by achieving ~~demonstrate mastery of professional~~
571 | ~~preparation and education competence by achievement of a passing~~
572 | score on the professional education competency examination, the
573 | basic skills examination, and the subject area examination for
574 | the area of certification required by state board rule ~~prior to~~
575 | ~~completion of the program.~~

576 | (c) Upon completion of all requirements for a ~~an~~
577 | ~~alternative~~ certification program approved pursuant to this
578 | subsection, a participant shall receive a credential from the
579 | sponsoring institution signifying that the participant has
580 | completed a state-approved competency-based certification
581 | program in the certification subject area specified in the
582 | educational plan ~~satisfaction of the requirements of s.~~
583 | ~~1012.56(6) relating to mastery of professional preparation and~~
584 | ~~education competence.~~ A participant shall be eligible for
585 | educator certification through the Department of Education upon
586 | satisfaction of all requirements for certification set forth in
587 | s. 1012.56(2), ~~including demonstration of mastery of general~~
588 | ~~knowledge, subject area knowledge, and professional preparation~~

589 | ~~and education competence, through testing or other statutorily~~
590 | ~~authorized means.~~

591 | ~~(d) If an institution offers an alternative certification~~
592 | ~~program approved pursuant to this subsection, such program may~~
593 | ~~be used by the school district or districts served by that~~
594 | ~~institution in addition to the alternative certification program~~
595 | ~~as required in s. 1012.56(8).~~

596 | (4) Continued approval of each program approved pursuant
597 | to this section shall be determined by the Commissioner of
598 | Education based upon a periodic review of the following:

599 | (a) Documentation from the program that each program
600 | completer has met the requirements of subsection (3).

601 | (b) Evidence of performance in each of the following
602 | categories of data:

603 | 1. Placement rate of program completers into instructional
604 | positions in Florida public schools and private schools, if
605 | available.

606 | 2. Rate of retention for employed program completers in
607 | instructional positions in Florida public schools.

608 | 3. Performance of the prekindergarten through grade 12
609 | students assigned to in-field program completers on statewide
610 | assessments using the results of the student learning growth
611 | formula adopted under s. 1012.34.

612 | 4. Performance of prekindergarten through grade 12
613 | students assigned to in-field program completers aggregated by
614 | federal reporting subgroup as a measure of how well the program
615 | prepares teachers to work with a variety of students in Florida
616 | public schools.

617 5. Overall teacher evaluation results of program
618 completers.

619 6. Production of program completers in statewide critical
620 teacher shortage areas as identified under s. 1012.07.

621 (5)~~(4)~~ Each institute approved pursuant to this section
622 shall submit to the Department of Education annual performance
623 evaluations that measure the effectiveness of the programs,
624 including the pass rates of participants on all examinations
625 required for teacher certification, employment rates,
626 longitudinal retention rates, and employer satisfaction surveys.
627 The employer satisfaction surveys must be designed to measure
628 the sufficient preparation of the educator to enter the
629 classroom. These evaluations shall be used by the Department of
630 Education for purposes of continued approval of an educator
631 preparation institute's ~~alternative~~ certification program.

632 (6)~~(5)~~ Instructors and supervisors of field experiences in
633 which a participant demonstrates his or her impact on student
634 learning for a ~~an alternative~~ certification program approved
635 pursuant to this section must meet the same qualifications as
636 those required in s. 1004.04(5) ~~possess a master's degree in~~
637 ~~education or a master's degree in an appropriate related field~~
638 ~~and document teaching experience.~~

639 (7)~~(6)~~ Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant
640 to this section and providing approved instructional programs
641 for any of the purposes in subsection (2) are eligible for
642 funding from federal and state funds, as appropriated by the
643 Legislature.

644 (8)~~(7)~~ The State Board of Education may adopt rules

645 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the
646 provisions of this section, including performance targets for
647 the measures used for continued program approval described in
648 subsection (4).

649 Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section
650 1012.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

651 1012.32 Qualifications of personnel.—

652 (2)

653 (d) Student teachers and~~7~~ persons participating in a field
654 experience pursuant to s. 1004.04(5) ~~1004.04(6)~~ or s. 1004.85~~7~~
655 ~~and persons participating in a short-term experience as a~~
656 ~~teacher assistant pursuant to s. 1004.04(10) in any district~~
657 ~~school system, lab school, or charter school~~ must, upon
658 engagement to provide services, undergo background screening as
659 required under s. 1012.56.

660

661 Fingerprints shall be submitted to the Department of Law
662 Enforcement for statewide criminal and juvenile records checks
663 and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for federal criminal
664 records checks. A person subject to this subsection who is found
665 ineligible for employment under s. 1012.315, or otherwise found
666 through background screening to have been convicted of any crime
667 involving moral turpitude as defined by rule of the State Board
668 of Education, shall not be employed, engaged to provide
669 services, or serve in any position that requires direct contact
670 with students. Probationary persons subject to this subsection
671 terminated because of their criminal record have the right to
672 appeal such decisions. The cost of the background screening may

673 be borne by the district school board, the charter school, the
674 employee, the contractor, or a person subject to this
675 subsection.

676 Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2), paragraphs (g)
677 and (h) of subsection (6), subsection (8), and paragraph (d) of
678 subsection (9) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are amended
679 to read:

680 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

681 (2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—To be eligible to seek
682 certification, a person must:

683 (c) Document receipt of a bachelor's or higher degree from
684 an accredited institution of higher learning, or a nonaccredited
685 institution of higher learning that the Department of Education
686 has identified as having a quality program resulting in a
687 bachelor's degree, or higher. Each applicant seeking initial
688 certification must have attained at least a 2.5 overall grade
689 point average on a 4.0 scale in the applicant's major field of
690 study. The applicant may document the required education by
691 submitting official transcripts from institutions of higher
692 education or by authorizing the direct submission of such
693 official transcripts through established electronic network
694 systems. The bachelor's or higher degree may not be required in
695 areas approved in rule by the State Board of Education as
696 nondegreed areas. The State Board of Education may adopt rules
697 that allow for the acceptance of college course credits
698 recommended by the American Council on Education (ACE), as
699 posted on an official ACE transcript, for the purpose of
700 demonstrating completion of specific certification requirements.

701 (6) MASTERY OF PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND EDUCATION
702 COMPETENCE.—Acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of
703 professional preparation and education competence are:

704 (g) Successful completion of a professional development
705 ~~preparation alternative~~ certification and education competency
706 program, outlined in paragraph (8) (a); or

707 (h) Successful completion of a competency-based ~~an~~
708 ~~alternative~~ certification program pursuant to s. 1004.85 and
709 achievement of a passing score on the professional education
710 competency examination required by rule of the State Board of
711 Education.

712 (8) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ~~PREPARATION ALTERNATIVE~~
713 CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATION COMPETENCY PROGRAM.—

714 (a) The Department of Education shall develop and each
715 school district may ~~must~~ provide a cohesive competency-based
716 professional development ~~preparation alternative~~ certification
717 program by which members of a school district's instructional
718 staff may satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and
719 education competence requirements specified in this subsection
720 and rules of the State Board of Education. Participants must
721 hold a state-issued temporary certificate. A school district
722 that implements the program shall provide a competency-based
723 ~~alternative certification preparation~~ program developed by the
724 Department of Education or developed by the district and
725 approved by the Department of Education. The program shall
726 include the following components:

727 1. A minimum period of initial preparation before ~~prior to~~
728 assuming duties as the teacher of record.

729 2. An option for collaboration between school districts
730 and other supporting agencies or educational entities for
731 implementation.

732 3. Experienced peer mentors. Each individual selected by
733 the school district as a peer mentor must hold a valid
734 professional certificate issued pursuant to s. 1012.56, have at
735 least 3 years of prekindergarten through grade 12 teaching
736 experience, and have earned either an effective or highly
737 effective rating on the previous year's evaluation under s.
738 1012.34 or be a peer evaluator under the district's evaluation
739 system approved under s. 1012.34.

740 4. An assessment of teaching performance aligned to the
741 school district's system for personnel evaluation under s.
742 1012.34 that provides for:

743 a. An initial evaluation of each educator's competencies
744 to determine an appropriate individualized professional
745 development plan.

746 b. A summative evaluation ~~postevaluation~~ to ensure ~~assure~~
747 successful completion of the program.

748 5. Professional education preparation content knowledge
749 that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

750 a. The state-adopted student content standards, including
751 content literacy and mathematical practices, for any subject
752 area shown on the temporary certificate. ~~Requirements specified~~
753 ~~in state board rule for professional preparation.~~

754 b. The educator-accomplished practices approved by the
755 state board.

756 c. A variety of data indicators for monitoring student

757 progress.

758 d. Methodologies, ~~including technology-based~~
759 ~~methodologies,~~ for teaching students with disabilities subject
760 content that supports the ~~Sunshine State Standards for students.~~

761 e. Methodologies for teaching English language learners
762 appropriate for any subject area shown on the temporary
763 certificate. Techniques for effective classroom management.

764 f. ~~Techniques and strategies for operationalizing the role~~
765 ~~of the teacher in assuring a safe learning environment for~~
766 ~~students.~~

767 g. ~~Methodologies for assuring the ability of all students~~
768 ~~to read, write, and compute.~~

769 6. Required achievement of passing scores on the subject
770 area and professional education competency examination required
771 by state board rule. Mastery of general knowledge must be
772 demonstrated as described in subsection (3).

773 (b) Each school district must and a state supported public
774 school or a private school may develop and maintain a system by
775 which members of the instructional staff may demonstrate mastery
776 of professional education competence as required by law. Each
777 program must be based on classroom application of the Florida
778 Educator Accomplished Practices and instructional performance
779 and, for public schools, must be aligned with the district's
780 evaluation system approved under s. 1012.34 ~~must include a~~
781 ~~performance evaluation plan for documenting the demonstration of~~
782 ~~required professional education competence.~~

783 (c) Continued approval of a program implemented under this
784 subsection shall be determined by the Commissioner of Education

785 after a periodic review of performance data from the program.

786 1. A program implemented under paragraph (a) shall be
787 based upon documentation from the program that the requirements
788 of paragraph (a) are consistently met and upon evidence of
789 performance in each of the following categories of data:

790 a. Rate of retention for employed program completers in
791 instructional positions in Florida public schools.

792 b. Performance of the prekindergarten through grade 12
793 students assigned to in-field program completers on statewide
794 assessments using the results of the student learning growth
795 formula adopted under s. 1012.34.

796 c. Performance of prekindergarten through grade 12
797 students assigned to in-field program completers aggregated by
798 federal reporting subgroup as a measure of how well the program
799 prepares teachers to work with a variety of students in Florida
800 public schools.

801 d. Overall teacher evaluation results of program
802 completers.

803 e. Production of program completers in statewide critical
804 teacher shortage areas as identified under s. 1012.07.

805 2. A program implemented under paragraph (b) shall be
806 based upon a review by the department conducted as part of the
807 periodic review of the entity's professional development system
808 conducted under s. 1012.98.

809 (9) EXAMINATIONS.—

810 (d) The department shall provide procedures for an
811 applicant who fails an examination developed by the department
812 or a contracted vendor to review the examination questions and

813 the responses for questions the applicant answered incorrectly.
814 An applicant shall bear the actual cost for the department to
815 provide examination review under this paragraph. Notwithstanding
816 any other provision of law, only an applicant who fails an
817 examination within a score range established by rule of the
818 State Board of Education is entitled to an examination review
819 under this paragraph or to challenge the validity of the
820 examination. ~~If an applicant takes an examination developed by~~
821 ~~this state and does not achieve the score necessary for~~
822 ~~certification, the applicant may review his or her completed~~
823 ~~examination and bring to the attention of the department any~~
824 ~~errors that would result in a passing score.~~

825 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
826 1012.585, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

827 1012.585 Process for renewal of professional
828 certificates.—

829 (3) For the renewal of a professional certificate, the
830 following requirements must be met:

831 (a) The applicant must earn a minimum of 6 college credits
832 or 120 inservice points or a combination thereof. For each area
833 of specialization to be retained on a certificate, the applicant
834 must earn at least 3 of the required credit hours or equivalent
835 inservice points in the specialization area. Education in
836 "clinical educator" training pursuant to s. 1004.04(5)(b)
837 ~~1004.04(6)(b)~~ and credits or points that provide training in the
838 area of scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading
839 literacy and computational skills acquisition, exceptional
840 student education, normal child development, and the disorders

841 of development may be applied toward any specialization area.
842 Credits or points that provide training in the areas of drug
843 abuse, child abuse and neglect, strategies in teaching students
844 having limited proficiency in English, or dropout prevention, or
845 training in areas identified in the educational goals and
846 performance standards adopted pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and
847 1008.345 may be applied toward any specialization area. Credits
848 or points earned through approved summer institutes may be
849 applied toward the fulfillment of these requirements. Inservice
850 points may also be earned by participation in professional
851 growth components approved by the State Board of Education and
852 specified pursuant to s. 1012.98 in the district's approved
853 master plan for inservice educational training, including, but
854 not limited to, serving as a trainer in an approved teacher
855 training activity, serving on an instructional materials
856 committee or a state board or commission that deals with
857 educational issues, or serving on an advisory council created
858 pursuant to s. 1001.452.

859 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
860 1012.98, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

861 1012.98 School Community Professional Development Act.—

862 (4) The Department of Education, school districts,
863 schools, Florida College System institutions, and state
864 universities share the responsibilities described in this
865 section. These responsibilities include the following:

866 (b) Each school district shall develop a professional
867 development system as specified in subsection (3). The system
868 shall be developed in consultation with teachers, teacher-

869 educators of Florida College System institutions and state
870 universities, business and community representatives, and local
871 education foundations, consortia, and professional
872 organizations. The professional development system must:

873 1. Be approved by the department. All substantial
874 revisions to the system shall be submitted to the department for
875 review for continued approval.

876 2. Be based on analyses of student achievement data and
877 instructional strategies and methods that support rigorous,
878 relevant, and challenging curricula for all students. Schools
879 and districts, in developing and refining the professional
880 development system, shall also review and monitor school
881 discipline data; school environment surveys; assessments of
882 parental satisfaction; performance appraisal data of teachers,
883 managers, and administrative personnel; and other performance
884 indicators to identify school and student needs that can be met
885 by improved professional performance.

886 3. Provide inservice activities coupled with followup
887 support appropriate to accomplish district-level and school-
888 level improvement goals and standards. The inservice activities
889 for instructional personnel shall focus on analysis of student
890 achievement data, ongoing formal and informal assessments of
891 student achievement, identification and use of enhanced and
892 differentiated instructional strategies that emphasize rigor,
893 relevance, and reading in the content areas, enhancement of
894 subject content expertise, integrated use of classroom
895 technology that enhances teaching and learning, classroom
896 management, parent involvement, and school safety.

897 4. Include a master plan for inservice activities,
 898 pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education, for all
 899 district employees from all fund sources. The master plan shall
 900 be updated annually by September 1, must be based on input from
 901 teachers and district and school instructional leaders, and must
 902 use the latest available student achievement data and research
 903 to enhance rigor and relevance in the classroom. Each district
 904 inservice plan must be aligned to and support the school-based
 905 inservice plans and school improvement plans pursuant to s.
 906 1001.42(18). District plans must be approved by the district
 907 school board annually in order to ensure compliance with
 908 subsection (1) and to allow for dissemination of research-based
 909 best practices to other districts. District school boards must
 910 submit verification of their approval to the Commissioner of
 911 Education no later than October 1, annually.

912 5. Authorize ~~Require~~ each school principal to establish
 913 and maintain an individual professional development plan for
 914 each instructional employee assigned to the school as a seamless
 915 component to the school improvement plans developed pursuant to
 916 s. 1001.42(18). An ~~The~~ individual professional development plan
 917 must:

918 ~~a.~~ a. be related to specific performance data for the
 919 students to whom the teacher is assigned;

920 ~~b.~~ b. define the inservice objectives and specific measurable
 921 improvements expected in student performance as a result of the
 922 inservice activity; and

923 ~~c.~~ c. include an evaluation component that determines the
 924 effectiveness of the professional development plan.

925 | 6. Include inservice activities for school administrative
926 | personnel that address updated skills necessary for
927 | instructional leadership and effective school management
928 | pursuant to s. 1012.986.

929 | 7. Provide for systematic consultation with regional and
930 | state personnel designated to provide technical assistance and
931 | evaluation of local professional development programs.

932 | 8. Provide for delivery of professional development by
933 | distance learning and other technology-based delivery systems to
934 | reach more educators at lower costs.

935 | 9. Provide for the continuous evaluation of the quality
936 | and effectiveness of professional development programs in order
937 | to eliminate ineffective programs and strategies and to expand
938 | effective ones. Evaluations must consider the impact of such
939 | activities on the performance of participating educators and
940 | their students' achievement and behavior.

941 | Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.